(c) whether Government propose to conduct a C.B.I. enquiry of this bungling; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) There was embezzlement/fraud in the Delhi Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd. at its Janakpuri branch. On enquiry conducted by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, New Delhi, the amount involved in the fraud has been estimated at Rs. 23.03 lakhs. The bank had lodged FIR with the police in December, 1991 for embezzlement against the then Manager of Janakpuri branch of the bank for investigation under I.P.C. The said Manager has been placed under suspension pending disciplinary action. Reserve Bank of India had advised the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, New Delhi to take immediate appropriate action under the provisions of Delhi Co-operative Societies Act. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, New Delhi, has also conducted a special audit of the bank. On the basis of the enquiry report, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, New Delhi, is taking further appropriate action.

Complaints Againts Lockers Safety

3694. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a number of cases, the employees of Punjab and Sind Bank have pilfered the lockers of the Bank at their branches in Green Park, Asaf Ali Road and Darya Ganj in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the number of complaints received in this regard from the owners of the lockers of these branches during the last two years, year-wise and the amount involved in each case;

(c) whether Government propose to refer these cases to CBI for investigation;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what is the outcome of the departmental investigations conducted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PALIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Raising Ceiling Limit for Bonus Entitlement

3695. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government has been requested to raise the entitled ceiling limit for payment of productivity linked bonus to its employees;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action to ensure payment of such bonus to atleast Non-Gazetted employees by raising its limit; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from the request for raising the eligibility ceiling of emoluments from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3500 p.m., the following requests have been received recently:

(i) Payment of Bonus to the employees drawing a basic pay upto Rs. 3500/- p.m.

(ii) Revision in the eligibility ceiling to cover all the Group 'C' & 'D' employees.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration. It is also mentioned that the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, in a batch of applications filed before it, had held that the applicants (who represent a section of

the Central Govt. employees) shall be entitled to the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus/ex-gratia as long as their emoluments do not exceed Rs. 3500 per month, as against the existing eligibility ceiling of Rs. 2500/- per month. A Special Leave Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court of India against the order of the Tribunal. The judgement of the Supreme Court on the petition is awaited.

Jammu and Kashmir State Finance Corporation Request for Waiving Off Interest

3696. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu & Kashmir State Finance Corporation (J&KSFC) has asked the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) for a moratorium upto two years in respect of repayment of the principal and waiving off the penal interest;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what is the amount of principal and penal interest involved;

(d) what are the reasons for which such a huge accumulated amount could not be recovered from the parties concerned; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of dues of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) from Jammu & Kashmir State Financial Corporation as on 31st July, 1993 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

	IDBI	SIDBI
Principal dues	199.12	4793.00
Interest dues		342.00
Penal Interest		8.63
Additional Interest		8.73
TOTAL	199.12	5152.36

(d) and (e) Due to the prevailing disturbed conditions in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, many industrial units have closed down their operations rendering the investment made in these units unuseful and the loans taken unserviceable. JKSFC has cleared all its interest dues to IDBI upto July 31, 1993 and is in default in repayment of the principal dues. J&KSFC has also made request for deferment of payment of principal dues, interest, penal interest and additional interest on refinance. The same will be decided by IDBI/SIDBI on merits.

NRI Expert Group on Economic Reforms

@3697. SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:
SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a group of NRI experts to study India's economic reforms, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the public distribution system would be scrapped and replaced by food stamps; and

@Previously unstarred quetion 3243 transferred from 19-8-93.